

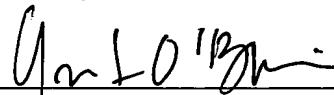
Application No. 10/627,387  
Amendment dated January 10, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2004

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and the courtesy extended during the January 6, 2005 telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives. As discussed during the interview, Applicants amended claims 1 and 3-6, as suggested by the Examiner, to overcome the Examiner's § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Pursuant to the above-noted Office Action, claims 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103(a) given Ganan-Calvo (U.S. Patent No. 6,248,378) ("Ganan-Calvo"). Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the Examiner's indication of claims 1-6 as allowable subject matter if amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In light of the indicated allowable subject matter and to expedite prosecution, Applicants cancel rejected claims 7-14 and amend claims 1 and 3-6 to overcome the §112, second paragraph, rejection. For all these reasons, Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that this application may be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY  
By   
Grace Law O'Brien  
Registration No. 48,872

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120 South LaSalle Street  
Suite 1600  
Chicago, Illinois 606033406  
Telephone 312.577.7000  
Facsimile 312.577.7007  
362233